GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:367
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2016
Coal Mining in Meghalaya
Pala Shri Vincent H

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL

LOK SABHA
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TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.02.2016

Coal Mining in Meghalaya
367. SHRI VINCENT H.PALA:
Will the Minister of COALbe pleased to state:

(a)whether the Union Government isplanning to stop coal mining in Meghalaya;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the stand of the Union Governmentin the Court of National Green Tribunaland the present status of the case;

(d)the plan of the Government to helpthe people who suffered due to the orderof the NGT; and

(e)the Government''s views on themining plan submitted by the Governmentof Meghalaya?

ANSWER
MINISTEROF STATE (IC) IN THE MINISTERYOFCOAL, POWER AND NEW&RENEWABLE ENERGY
(SHRIPIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (e): The National Green Tribunal vide its order dated 17.4.2014 in OA no. 73/2014 and MA no. 174/2014 titled All Dimasa Students Union Hasao Dist. Committee vs State of Meghalaya &ors., directed the Chief Secretary, Government of Meghalaya and the Director General of Police, State of Meghalaya to ensure that rat-hole mining/illegal mining is stopped forthwith throughout the State of Meghalaya and any illegal transport of coal shall not take place until further orders passed by the Tribunal.

In the above said OA, the Ministry has filed affidavit with the submission that there is nothing to show that the President of India has given any exemption that the Coal Mines (Nationalization) Act, 1973 shall not apply to an autonomous district or an autonomous region in the State of Meghalaya, therefore the said laws will apply and therefore, State Government of Meghalaya may make further submission on the powers under which, they have been granting mining rights for coal in their territory.

National Green Tribunal in its order dated 29.09.2015 in OA no. 110(THC) of 2012 and OA no. 73, 13 &186 of 2014 has directed Secretary(Coal) to examine the draft guidelines submitted by Govt. of Meghalaya expeditiously and hold a meeting with the Chief Secretary of the State of Meghalaya in order to finalize the guidelines at the earliest.

In pursuance thereto a meeting was convened by Secretary(Coal) with Addl. Chief Secretary, Meghalaya, JS(NE), MHA on 01.12.2015 wherein it was agreed that :
The guidelines submitted by the Govt. of Meghalaya are not in conformity with the existing statutory provisions of MMDR Act, 1957. Hence the State Govt. of Meghalaya may reframe the guideline in conformity with MMDR Act, 1957 and submit.
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Answer

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